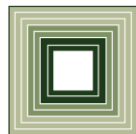


State Ethics Commission

Departmental Overview

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee for General Government

March 17, 2015



FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

A Staff Agency of the North Carolina General Assembly

Ethics Commission Outline

- Authorizing Laws & Responsibilities
- Organizational Chart
- Budget Overview
- Information Requested

Ethics Commission

Authorizing Laws & Responsibilities

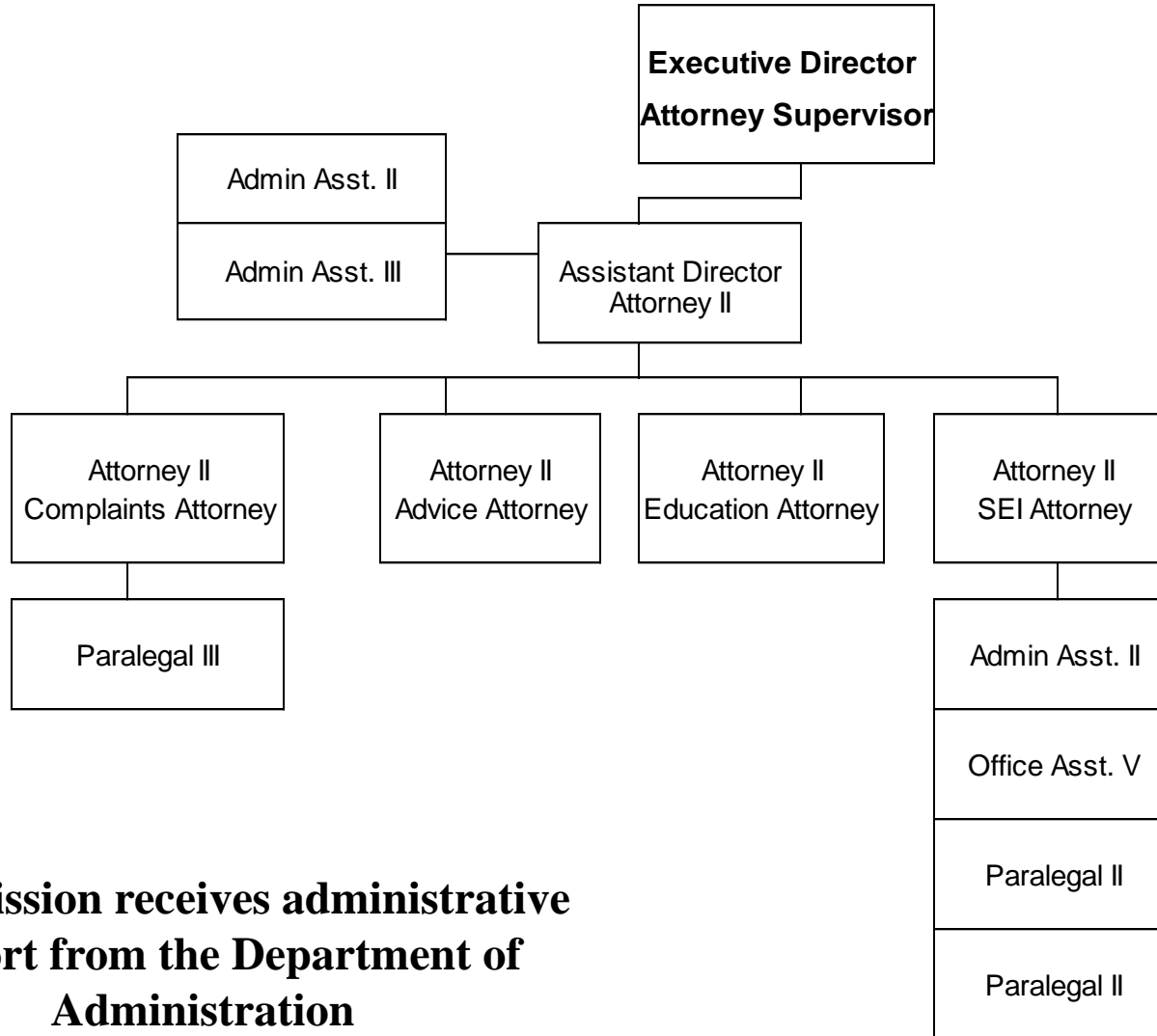
- § 138A: State Government Ethics Act
- § 138A-7: State Ethics Commission
- § 120C: Lobbying

Ethics Commission

Authorizing Laws & Responsibilities

- Requirement: Administer the financial disclosure requirements for most covered persons (SEIs)
 - Information is public record
 - Online public access
 - MPO/RPO requirements and penalties

Ethics Commission Organizational Chart



***Commission receives administrative support from the Department of Administration**

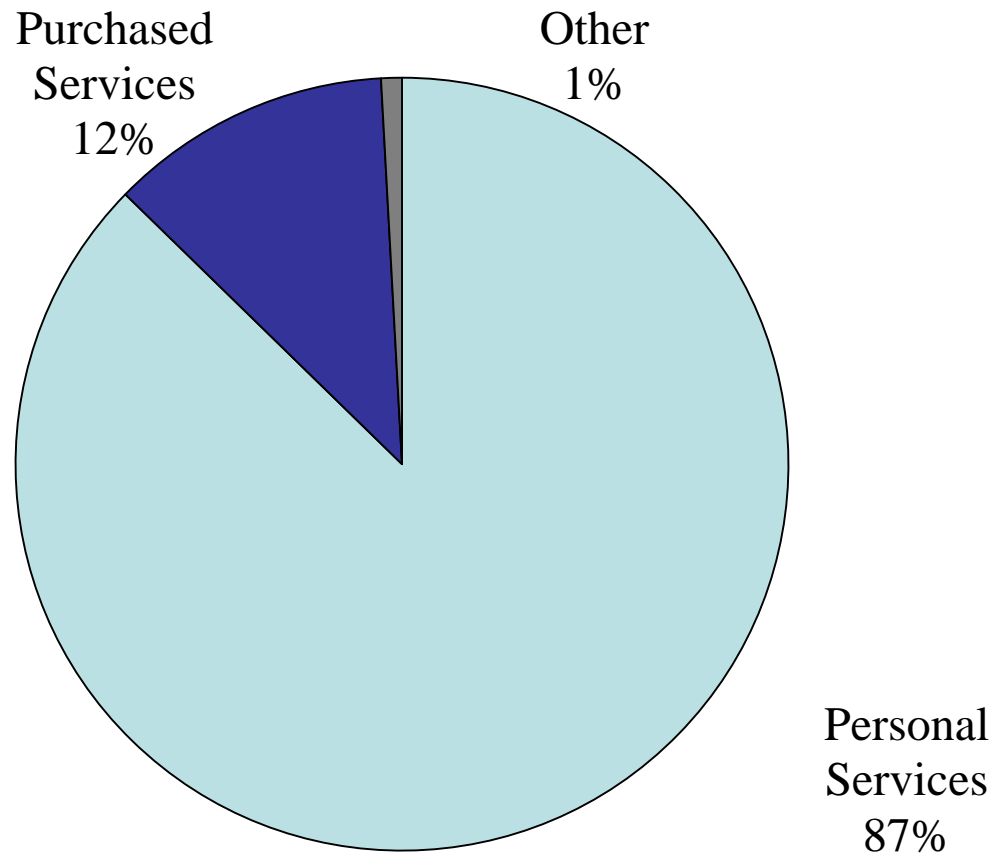
Ethics Commission

Budget Overview

	FY 2010-11 Actual	FY 2011-12 Actual	FY 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Actual	FY 2014-15 Authorized Budget
Requirements	\$1,337,528	\$1,262,752	\$1,144,003	\$1,230,935	\$1,260,870
Receipts	\$716	\$199,212	\$136,013	\$51,559	\$86,524
Appropriation	\$1,336,812	\$1,063,540	\$1,007,990	\$1,179,376	\$1,174,346
FTEs	14	12	12	13	13

Ethics Commission

Authorized Budget FY 2014-15



Ethics Commission Information Requested

- MPO/RPO penalties
- Commission placement within Department of Administration
- Biennial SEI evaluation
- Online filing and public access to SEIs
- Telephones

Questions?



Statements of Economic Interest (SEI)

- Develop & distribute all SEI and related forms (including amendment & “short” forms)
- Respond to questions from filers concerning their SEI disclosures
- Evaluate SEIs of all public servants for actual and potential conflicts of interest
- Over 7,000 people filed an SEI in 2014
 - 527 received a 30 day letter for failure to file or incomplete filing
 - 88 received a 60 day letter for failure to file or incomplete filing
 - 62 were assessed a \$250 fine

Ethics Commission - Education

- Develop and conduct statutorily mandated ethics and lobbying education for public servants, legislators, and legislative employees (online and classroom)
- Assist legislative staff in developing and maintaining online ethics education program for legislative employees
- Develop lobbying law presentations for lobbyists and lobbyist principals
- Reached over 3,000 public servants, legislators, lobbyists, and others during 2014

Ethics Commission - Advice & Formal Advisory Opinions

- Respond to requests for advice on compliance with the ethics law from public servants, legislators, and legislative employees, including conflicts of interest, gifts ban, use of title, and other requirements of the ethics law
- Research and respond to requests for advice and formal advisory opinions from lobbyists, lobbyist principals, legislative liaisons and others concerning compliance with the lobbying law
- Research and draft formal advisory opinions for consideration by the Commission as requested by public servants, legislators, and legislative employees
- In 2014, 7 formal advisory opinions were issued and 583 informal opinions were issued

Ethics Commission - Complaints & Investigations

- Receive and investigate complaints alleging unethical conduct against public servants, legislators, legislative employees, and judicial officers
- Receive and investigate complaints alleging violations of portions of the lobbying law, including the gift ban
 - Secretary of State investigates violations or registration and reporting requirements
- Commission received 190 complaints and inquiries in 2014